

MR. K. C. CHANDI (*Minachil cum Devicolum*): With reference to part (b), is it proposed to put up the temporary shed during the course of 1108?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): If there is provision in the Budget it will be done.

MR. K. C. CHANDI (*Minachil cum Devicolum*): I do not find provision for it in the Budget. That is why I now ask the question.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): If it would mean only a small amount it could be diverted from other items.

Damage caused by the opening of the sluice at the Periyar dam.

327. MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*):

(1) Are the Government aware:

(a) that, during high floods, the sluice at the Periyar dam is opened; and

(b) that such opening occasions harm and inconvenience to the residents on either side of the Periyar river and to the several inhabitants of the Parur taluk?

(2) Will they be pleased to state whether they have made any arrangements to compensate for the damage caused to the people referred to in part (1) (b)?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (1) (a) Yes.

(b) High floods in the Periyar river must necessarily be liable, in certain circumstances, to cause harm and inconvenience to riparian owners and to those whose lands are flooded by such floods.

(2) The answer is in the negative.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): Part (b) of my question is "that such opening" (of the sluice) "occasions harm and inconvenience to the residents on either side of the Periyar river....."; but the answer relates to damages caused by high floods.

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): The sluice is opened only during high floods to moderate the floods. Some damage is inevitable during high floods.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): But, does not the member realise that the opening of the sluice causes damage to the lands lower down on either side of the river.

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): Damage lower down the river is inevitable when there is high floods in the source.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): Will not the opening of the sluice cause additional damage to the regions lower down?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): I do not think any additional damage is likely.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): Is it not natural that, if the sluice is opened, the regions lower down would get flooded to a greater extent than they would be if the sluice is not opened?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): The whole region is generally under water, during high floods.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): Will not the opening of the sluice increase the floods and the damage due to floods, in the region lower down the river?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): I do not think there would be substantial increase of the flood-level on account of the opening of the sluice.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): Am I to understand that the level is the same throughout the region lower down the river?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): I did not say so. What I say is that whatever be the damage caused, it is the inevitable result of floods and that the opening of the sluice does not substantially aggravate the situation.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): But the opening of the sluice is done by human agency, and so can be avoided.

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): I say there is no harm in opening the sluice, because it is opened slowly and gradually, and that only during high floods when damage is inevitable, whether the sluice, is opened or not.

MR. K. P. ABRAHAM (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): Who is to be held responsible for the damage caused by the opening of the sluice, however little such damage may be?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): I have already stated that no appreciable damage would be caused by the opening of the sluice. And, the people are given previous notice.

Taking over for departmental maintenance the ryots' road connecting the Vazhakulam-Vazhittala road with the Todupuzha-Pala road.

328. **MR. K. P. ABRAHAM** (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) whether they received any petition in Makaram 1107 from the Road Board Committee in Arikuzha, Manakad pakuthi, Todupuzha taluk, for recognition and maintenance by Government of a six mile ryots' road constructed by the petitioners and others and connecting the Vazhakulam-Vazhittala road with the Todupuzha—Pala road near the Todupuzha bridge; and

(b) if the answer to part (a) is in the affirmative, the action taken on that petition and the decision made on it?

MR. A. KUMARA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): (a) Yes.

(b) It has been forwarded to the Chief Engineer for disposal.

V. H. schools in the State.

329. **MR. A. NARAYANA PILLAI** (*Vaikam*): Will the Government be pleased to state the number of V. H. schools in the State at present (16-11-1107)?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Six.